

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the Abstract with the following rewritten version:

“Disclosed is a method for determining the sound velocity (C_b) in a basic material, in which an ultrasonic probe ~~comprising~~ having a transmitting probe, a receiver transducer, and a forward member is used. ~~Said~~ The forward member is provided with a coupling surface, by means of which the probe is coupled to the basic material, and has a sound velocity (C_v). The transmitting probe and the receiver transducer are ~~maligned~~ aligned in an oblique manner from each other and from the coupling surface such that a main transmission direction of the transmitting probe and a main receiving direction of the receiver transducer intersect below the coupling surface. The centers of the transmitting probe and the receiver transducer are located at a distance K from each other and are located at a distance D_v from the coupling surface. According to the inventive method, the transmitting probe generates an ultrasonic pulse which runs through the forward member into the basic material, where ~~said~~ the ultrasonic pulse creates a creeping wave, a portion of which arrives at the receiver transducer. The shortest sound traveling time (T_{tot}) is measured and the sound velocity (C_b) within the basic material is determined via the path between the transmitting probe and the receiver transducer, which supplies the shortest total traveling time (T_{tot}).”